

The Planters' Chronicle.

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THE U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED.)

Contents.

An article, very interesting to all Coffee Planters, is published by the Planting Expert, who extracts from Mr. Butcher's Report and from notes supplied by Mr. J. G. Hamilton (who by the by advertises some hybrid seeds in our columns).

The plan of the Experimental Plot, kindly furnished by Mr. Butcher, with marginal notes makes the whole very clear.

We call special attention to the Resolution unanimously passed by the Wynaad Planters' Association at a largely attended meeting, as to the "urgent necessity" of a Labour Commission for South India.

The Scientific Department publishes an article on the Ant Repellent which contains the gist of a Report of the Results of a Report emanating from the American Bureau of Entomology. We hope that some planter will try the "ant tape" and send a report on the result. It will be noticed that the hot weather is the best time to try this experiment.

We publish a long letter from Mr. Mead on the question of Labour generally, which also criticises the effects of the Labour Committee's Report. We personally do not agree with most that Mr. Mead writes, specially in regard to the proposed Labour Commission. It strikes us as too parochial: but we are glad that he recognises the efforts of the Labour Committee to settle a very troublesome question. We think that the planting community will do well to concentrate on this one most important point, rather than have their minds diverted by the red herring drawn across the trail in the last para of Mr. Mead's letter.

Mr. West addresses us on the Labour Problem, but when he talks of wages, he somewhat contradicts himself in the two first paras of his letter. Nor do we gather from Mr. Mead's letter that he considers extradition from Native States as the universal panacea against absconding coolies and loss of advances.

We reproduce the first portion of an article on Tea in 1699, which gives the history of the introduction of tea as a beverage into England.

Scientific Officer's Papers.**CXXII.—COFFEE HYBRIDISATION WORK IN SOUTHERN INDIA.**

Work on The Experimental Plot in the Nilgiris was begun in 1912 and Mr. F. H. Butcher, the Curator of Government Parks and Gardens, the Nilgiris, who is co-operating with the Planting Expert reports on it as follows in the *Annual Administration Report* for 1912-13:—

"The work of planting up the plot was commenced in April last, when coffee hybrids kindly given by Mr. Rhodes James were planted at the bottom of the plantation—*Vide plan below.*

"These are all doing well and made splendid growth during the year.

"The larger portion of the plot was not planted until November during the North-East Mousoon, when planting conditions on the part of the Nilgiris are most favourable. The following kinds of coffee were then planted:—

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| (1) Coffee robusta. | (5) Maragogipe. |
| (2) " Arabica (two kinds). | (6) Hamilton's third generation. |
| (3) Mocha. | (7) " second generation. |
| (4) Maragogipe (two kinds). | |

Each variety is allotted a space of 36 x 48 feet and each one of these divisions is labelled A B or C and so on to the end of the plantation. Each plant in every square is lettered and numbered on a plan, a copy of which is reproduced on the next page. By this method each individual plant is known, and when hybridisation commences these letters and numbers will be used in recording the crosses. The X marked on the plan shows the position of the posts denoting each variety. These posts are well made structures having four arms each which point to the division containing the variety written on the arm.

"The blank places noted on the plan on the next page denote the position where a plant would have been planted if the spot had been favourable or a plant available. Some of these blanks will be filled in when plants are available.

"A large notice board has been erected on the road side so that the public wishing to enter the plantation can easily find the entrance."

This year it is intended to fill up the vacancies and to plant up another small block with one or two other varieties. It will be noticed that the plants are planted widely apart, the object being to allow plenty of room for netting the trees and working round them when actual cross fertilising work comes to be done. There is nothing more to be done now until the trees are old enough to flower and bear seed.

In Coorg Mr. A. H. Jackson is carrying out some special experiments with Hybrids under estate conditions, and the new clearing of hybrid plants are making most excellent growth.

In Mysore, systematic work has been continued over a long period of years with Coffee Hybrids at Chundrapore Estate, and the following account of the progress made has been compiled from notes kindly supplied by Mr. J. G. Hamilton.

Verv little was done during 1912-13 as Mr. Hamilton himself was away and the 1912 clearing was planted in such a confused way in his absence that it will be difficult if not impossible to pick out the different types.

This year, 1913, another small clearing has been made of third, fourth, and fifth generation Hybrids, and also some Golden Drop, British East Africa Ordinary, and British East Africa Jamaica Blue Mountain, i.e., coffee grown near Nairobi from seed imported from Jamaica.

PLAN OF COFFEE-HYBRIDISATION EXPERIMENTAL PLOT AT BENHOPE.

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	
1*	1*	1*	1*	1*	(1) 3 plants B. H. I.
2*	2*	2*	2*	3*	(2) 3 do B. H. II.
3*	3*	3*	3*	2*	(3) 3 do Robusta.
					(4) 3 do Saklaspur.
					(5) 3 do Hamilton's V.

A				B				
a 1	a 2	a 3	b 1	b 2	b 3			A Coffea robusta.
a 4	a 5	a 6	b 4	b 5	b 6			
a 7	...	a 9	b 7	b 8	b 9			
a 10	a 11	a 12	b 10	b 11	b 12			B Coffea arabica.

C				D				
c 1	c 2	c 3	d 1			C Coffea arabica.
c 4	c 5	c 6	d 4	d 5	...			
c 7	c 8	c 9	d 7	d 8	...			D Mocha coffee.
c 10	c 11	c 12						

E				F				
e 1	e 2	e 3	f 1	f 2	f 3			E Maragogipe coffee.
e 4	e 5	e 6	f 4	f 5	f 6			
e 7	e 8	e 9	f 7	f 8	f 9			
e 10	e 11	e 12	f 10	f 11	f 12			F Maragogipe coffee.

G				H				
g 1	g 2	g 3	h 1	h 2	h 3			G Hamilton's 3rd generation.
g 4	g 5	g 6	h 4	h 5	h 6			
g 7	g 8	g 9	h 7	h 8	h 9			
g 10	g 11	g 12	h 10	h 11	h 12			H Hamilton's 2nd generation.

Hybrid Coffee
from Mr.
Rhodes James

Each Block of these varieties is divided from those surrounding it by paths or roads so that in three or four years there is a prospect of having a fair number of trees under proper observation. In the case of the fourth generation plants the bulk has been so planted that the progeny of different known trees of the third generation from which the seed was derived can be separately watched.

Many of the old trees of the third generation appear to be slow in responding to blossom showers and the fifteen and twenty cent showers which often damage the Arabica crops leave these hybrids untouched. On the other hand if the ground is at all hard thirty cents of rain is insufficient to bring out their blossom. Their growth appears to be slow at first but when once they become established they make rapid progress. Their progeny is not quite so much inclined to sport as that of the earlier generations but a good many do so and only a few trees have been selected and marked for seed bearing purposes.

Selection has not been so thoroughly carried out among the old fourth generation hybrids but all bad trees are discarded.

The fifth generation hybrids show much more uniformity but as they are still very young no seed has yet been taken from them and only a little will be selected this year. As far as present observations have gone these fifth generations plants are more responsive to rain than earlier generations but still less so than the ordinary Arabica coffee. They bore a very heavy crop at two years old but this year had bad luck in rain, and they received no cultivation so that the present crop is a small one. The sample of coffee prepared from them and sent to London last year was not much liked there, but a similar sample sent to Havre elicited a very favourable report and was valued in March 1913 at 73s. 6. c.f.f.

When considering the results obtained with these hybrids it must be remembered that up to the present year none of them have been planted in ordinary good soil but they have always been used to fill up bad corners where nothing else would grow. The consequence is that they have had a hard life and bad conditions and deserve credit for having lived at all.

With the advent of Green Bug in Mysore and Coorg it may become necessary to reconsider the question of which generation and type should be chosen for seed bearers, and in view of this, about two acres more of third generation plants have been put down though it was not originally intended to plant any more of these.

Hitherto in selecting parents while absolutely rejecting anything showing very marked Arabica characteristics, plants showing even somewhat excessive Liberica character have also been rejected. This has tended to reduce the coffee produced gradually towards the Arabican type. This was readily seen by the series of samples exhibited during the Annual Meeting of the U. P. A. S. I.

Even among the fifth generation plants Mules may be expected though none have been noticed as yet. There are many among the third generation plants and a few among the fourth. It is generally possible to detect these and eliminate them quite early in their lives.

It was noticed this year that where there was 'paddy' it was pink on all generation.

RUDOLPH D. ANSTEAD.

Planting Expert.

Wynnad Planters' Association.

That this Meeting is unanimous in considering that the institution of a Labour Commission for South India is an urgent necessity, and that the members present agree to represent the position to their Proprietors, recommending them to allow the Estates they are in charge of to join the scheme if it is found that the promises of support justify the establishment of a Commission on the lines suggested in the report of the Committee appointed by the United Planters' Association of Southern India.

Proposed from the Chair, and carried unanimously.

THE SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENT, U.P.A.S.I.

An Ant Repellent.—Under this title an article appears in the September number of the *Tropical Agriculturist* which is of great interest to Coffee planters who are faced with a campaign against certain species of Ants in their endeavour to keep the Green Bug in check in Coorg and Mysore. The article in question gives the results obtained by the Experts of the American Bureau of Entomology in their war against the Argentine Ant (*Iridomyrmex humilis*). This Ant is one of the many instances of an introduced pest as it was introduced into America from Argentina in the course of commerce. Not only is it a serious household pest but it feeds on the excreta of scale insects as do the Red Ant and others in this country, and like these, it protects the scales against their natural enemies. The result of this has been that Scale Insects have multiplied to such an extent that orange growing in the infested parts of the Delta of the Mississippi has been rendered unprofitable.

The American Entomologists have found that the only repellent which would remain efficient for any length of time was dry Corrosive Sublimate. In order to use this an "ant tape" is prepared as follows:—Corrosive sublimate is heated with water in a porcelain vessel till the maximum amount is dissolved. This solution is allowed to cool and it is then filtered and in the clear solution thus obtained ordinary cotton tape is soaked for several hours. It is then wrung out and pinned up on a wall to dry. In making the solution of corrosive sublimate it must not be allowed to come into contact with Iron or tin, nor must the tape be allowed to do so, as there is a chemical action between the Mercury in the Corrosive sublimate and these metals.

The ant tape prepared in this way is fastened round the legs of tables, along the edges of shelves &c and it is found to remain effective for as long as eleven months provided it is not allowed to get wet. Corrosive Sublimate is a very poisonous substance and the usual precautions in using a poison must be observed.

It is possible that the use of this tape might be practicable to protect sprayed coffee trees from the visit of Ants carrying young scale insects at any rate in the dry weather which is the time when the attack of the latter is most violent and the Scientific Assistants should experiment with this method.

Rubber Pavements.—With the falling price of Rubber and the discussion as to new uses for it the question of its possible utilisation for street paving is a most interesting one. From an article on the subject in the *India Rubber World* it appears that there are three existing rubber pavements in London, the court yards of the Savoy and Claridge's Hotels and the approach and exit of Euston Railway Station. The hotel pavements have been down ten and thirteen years respectively and that at Euston has been down thirty two years. The former was 2½ inches thick and the latter two inches and in all cases the wear has now reduced them to about half their original thickness so that the experiment would appear to be a complete success.

The last issue to hand of the *India Rubber Journal* quotes the *Scottsman* as saying that the rubber paving laid down on the Dessau system in the New Kent Road is so far a success. After three weeks experience the traffic has not moved the sheeting from the wood in any way, but when a weighty vehicle like a traction engine with broad double tyred wheels stops upon it dead there is too little grip, and when a start has to be made again the wheels fly round until some sand is thrown under them. This objection is confined to the section where the blocks are not keyed.

R. D. A.

• CORRESPONDENCE •

THE MOOPLY VALLEY RUBBER COMPANY, LTD.

Palapilly P. O.,

September 22nd. 1913.

THE EDITOR,

The Planters' Chronicle.

Labour,

Sir, I am in receipt of the Report of the Labour Committee of the U. P. A. S. I. and take the liberty of asking for the hospitality of your columns to place my views on this matter and on Labour matters generally before the Planting Community.

Legislation.—I have been and am a consistent opponent of this and am more sorry than I can say that Mr. Danvers is becoming or thinking of becoming an unwilling convert.

The delusive bait of extradition appears to be the lure responsible for his capture. Let me warn him, instead of a succulent may-fly, he will find a bundle of dry feathers and an exceedingly sharp look.

My way of looking on legislation is shortly this. No Act can possibly be framed which does not start from the fallacy that the cooly, maistry and planter are equally honest (or dishonest) and solvent, *ergo* no Act can be framed that is of any use to the Planter.

As to Extradition, I have an interest in a tea place in a Native State and a cooly can bolt any night into British India whence there is no extradition. Theoretically I should annually have an appalling list of bad debts. In practice a planter takes more care as to whom advances are given and the maistry takes more care as to whom he advances in the villages.

Further if a cooly does abscond there is still the finest tribunal ever possible to help the maistry to recover the advance i.e., the village tribunal the only court that can have any real knowledge of the claims and counter-claims between cooly and maistry.

Now if Extradition is so necessary for our salvation it will be obvious that those fortunate districts in South India that bask in the security of the Act will be immune from bad debts as long as they recruit from British India. Is this a fact?

My old friend Mr. J. A. Richardson with whom I have often argued matters says "Yes, but we must protect ourselves against crimping in our own districts and in other districts." Truly an awful confession. We planters must run to legislation to keep ourselves in the narrow way of honesty.

So much for Legislation and Extradition.

Shortage of Labour and its Causes.—It is obvious to anyone that it was impossible not to disturb labour conditions when the last few years have shown such enormous demands for fresh labour to open up huge areas in rubber and other products. The man who was there first says "New places should find new labour and not interfere with ours." How impossible this is in practice, men like Mr. Martin know. There are not many districts within a reasonable distance which have not been tried and recruited from for years. Recruiting in districts from which estate labour is already drawn is bound to lead to what is ever present in any business—COMPETITION. I do not believe there has been any deliberate attempt by South Indian planters to crimp coolies from planters in other districts though there have been undoubtedly numerous cases recorded where the professional recruiter for countries over-seas has been deliberately guilty.

But beyond a sudden demand increasing competition there are other factors that must not be lost sight of. Take the price of food stuffs for instance. This reacts both ways. Firstly, there is a greater demand and consequently a rise in wages in the plains, secondly, there is a smaller balance between the cooly's wages and his cost of living when on an estate.

A good deal of harm has also been done to the Labour market by what I may term the ignorance of large and wealthy firms starting operations in South India. In other planting countries such as North India, and the F. M. S., to instance only two, money will provide labour. In South India labour has to be made, and connections worked up, in short labour cannot be bought. But the effect of lavish and wild advancing is not only felt by the firms who put out these advances but by the whole community. There should in South India be no real necessity for high advances but planters have had to raise their scale or be left without coolies. Again competition,

Again the rubber boom and large extensions made in tea has naturally increased the demand for planters and has resulted in planters shifting from one billet to another in a way that was unknown a few years ago. I know of nothing more likely to unsettle labour than this. Without wishing to be misunderstood in any way, I maintain that labour is not worked as well as it used to be, and planters are not as a body in such intimate touch with their Labour as was the case some years ago.

We now come to Foreign competition. Mr. Martin, in season and out of season, has preached the necessity for fair competition and for the absolute necessity if this is to be secured of having the emigrant cooly's interests protected BY GOVERNMENT. As a body we have assented but not pressed the point as it should have been pressed and as it still should be pressed. All of us who have seen anything of recruiting in the plains can remember how the country was overrun with blackbirders and crimps.

We remember the fulminations of the Ceylon Editors over Mr. Martin's overseas circular and know that the sole reason why it was considered so objectionable was that every word in it was true and every statement embodied was taken from evidence given by Ceylon planters at their own Labour Commission. A certain number of abuses then rampant have been done away with and the Ceylon papers have kindly informed us that if we care to try and better our labour conditions they will not object. It is still the duty of the Madras Government to let the cooly know exactly and without exaggeration either way what he can expect when he has crossed the sea to one or other of the much advertised Eldorados. I am informed that the F. M. S. planters have agreed to reduce wages. I make the statement for what it is worth. If this is a fact and it applies to coolies already in the country and such coolies have been imported under a direct understanding as to wages, working hours, etc., I can only say it amounts to a distinct breach of faith, as it is a subject that ought to be inquired into by the Madras Government. There are other points on which I should like the cooly to be posted such as: What is the birth rate among immigrant coolies in the F. M. S. and what the mortality among them amounts to? I mention these points merely to point out that we have a claim, and the landowners of the Madras Presidency have a claim, and last, but not least, the cooly has a claim that the Government should be called upon to protect the emigrant.

Proposed Labour Commission.—In common with other South Indian Planters I am much indebted to the members of the Committee that have issued their Report, but I confess to disagree with their arguments and con-

clusions, and record my criticisms under the idea that criticism will not only be welcomed by the actual members of the Committee but by the planters who are asked to give their opinions and the actual proprietors and Agents of Companies who are asked to subscribe to the scheme.

The Committee have set forth no less than 14 advertised Benefits that will accrue on general support being accorded to their Scheme. I find myself immediately at issue with them with regard to Number 1.

I am not altogether opposed to Labour Commissions, but am entirely opposed to a central commission on the score of both efficiency and cost. Those of us who have for some years taken interest in studying the Labour conditions will have noticed a curious fact. I trust Mr. Martin will bear me out. This is, that each district has more or less its own centres of recruiting. There are certain taluks of Trichinopoly where you will find practically every cooly is either an Up-country Ceylon cooly or an ex-cooly from the same districts. Similarly in South India the K. D. H. P. Coy. draw a very large percentage of their labour force (and certainly the best of it) from certain districts of Tinnevely. Peermade, in the same way, has a recruiting zone from which the bulk of their best coolies are drawn. It is to these zones that these planting districts must look for the steady augmentation of their labour. If this is the case, it is practically only to the subdivision of the proposed Labour Commission that actually concerns them that planters must look for help. Then why have a Commissioner at all? It is an exceedingly expensive part of the scheme and in my opinion valueless.

2. The assurance could be equally well obtained by a commission appointed by the estates interested in one district and the agent would be under more direct control—a most important matter.

3 & 4. The same applies.

5. This would be of some use in new districts but as I have said it is to the old districts that planters must look for increasing their labour forces. If the planter does not know all about these he does not know his work.

6. I agree with this but it is the planter who can best keep in touch by visiting his recruiting centres. My men do this and it pays, but it does not cost the estate a large sum annually.

7. Thank heaven I have nothing to do with this and sincerely hope I never shall.

8. A district Commission would do this as well or better.

9. I believe in this but a district can do this and advertise the beauties of their district without going into raptures about other districts.

10. I would personally not be prepared to pay money for this end, I would prefer to go and see for myself.

11. I believe these absences pay the estate as it is work that I do not think can be properly done by proxy.

12. I own this makes me laugh. I can foresee constant quarrels and complaints that one district is getting more for its money than another.

13. How? You cannot do away with competition. Is the Commission to tell me if I wish to try my luck in another district I cannot do so but am allowed to go, let us say, to Annantapur.

14. Now the rubber boom is over I foresee labour settling down a bit without help from a Commission.

My final conclusions are that a good deal might be done by each district running a small commission where labour demands it and there is sufficient co-operation in the district, but I entirely doubt the efficiency of a Commission as outlined by the Committee while I regard the cost as excessive.

I have one final suggestion to make although it does not bear absolutely on the labour question. This is: Has not the time arrived when it would be a good thing to form a series of strong committees of the U. P. A. S. I., representing tea, coffee, rubber and cardamoms, such committees to be elected by the interested concerns irrespective of districts. There are certain matters that concern all but these could be for the most part be discussed at the U. P. A. S. I. The Tea, Coffee, Rubber and Cardamom Committees would discuss only the matters that concerned them personally and should be able to do something towards standardizing rates etc., which cannot be done in a meeting where all products are represented. The deliberations of such produce committees would be circulated only to such members of the U. P. A. S. I. as are connected with the form of cultivation in question. Meetings could be held twice a year at such centres as are most convenient to the different committees.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

A. H. MEAD.

The Labour Problem.

The EDITOR,

Planters' Chronicle.

Sir,—I agree with every word "Kithogge" writes, "Legislation of any sort is futile." What we have got to do is to pay the cooly as much as he can earn elsewhere, in the Straits or Ceylon and land him on the Estate free of debt; and this we can do provided there is a reciprocity of warrants under Act I of 1903 between all Native States and Ceylon and British India, and that we are also allowed to enter into three years' agreement with the cooly as done elsewhere.

What we want is no harbour for malicious, habitual and fraudulent defaulters. We will then all be on the same footing and I think even a lesser wage in Southern India will then keep the cooly to our shores. Coolies generally hate going far away from their kith and kin, provided they can earn enough to keep them out of debt. Our promiscuous and huge advances have done most harm, and most of the coolies, including maistries, are so involved that they go beyond the seas or anywhere to get rid of or avoid the debt.

Every cooly and maistry knows that South India must and will give advances as asked for, for labour; and they also know they never need fulfil their obligations if they go to Ceylon or the Straits (where they are so easily helped to get to by Government). Stay away a year and the thing is done. They have learned this so nicely that the same game can be played with impunity between Cochin and Travancore (Native States) and British Territory, and all we ask is to be put on an equal footing with reference to Act I. of 1903, and a three years agreement. The latter point is particularly necessary, as the coolies debts can be divided by three, which we can then afford to write off if necessary, and they would be unburdened and receive their full wages.

ALISTER WEST.

TEA.

Tea in 1699.

Of all beverages, save perhaps wine, tea has probably been subjected to the greatest variety of criticism from the highest praise to the strongest condemnation, and numbers of books, pamphlets and verses have been written for and also against its use.

In a book written in 1725 and quoted in these columns some little while ago, there was ascribed to tea most of the diseases then known, but this was, perhaps, an extreme case, and there were, even in those days, many more eulogistic writings than the reverse.

In 1699 there was published in London "An Essay upon the Nature and Qualities of Tea," by J. Ovington, M. A., Chaplain to His Majesty. According to the title page, it shows: I. The Soil and Climate where it grows. II. The various kinds of it. III. The Rules for Chusing what is best. IV. The Means of Preserving it. V. The several Virtues for which it is fam'd.

The dedication is to the Right Honourable the Countess of Grantham, and as was not unusual in those days, is couched in somewhat extravagant phraseology. It commences:—

"Madam,—'Tis from Your innate goodness only, and that condescending Temper which is so remarkable in You, that this Foreign Leaf dares presume to court Your Favour, and hope for a welcome Entertainment,"

After further laudatory remarks about this most exemplary Countess, the writer, referring to Tea, goes on to say:—

"It is generally acknowledg'd to be both Pleasant and Medicinal, at once to delight the Palate and correct the Disease, and to heal the Distemper without giving any Disturbance to the Stomach.

"And certainly were the Custom of Drinking it as Universal here, as it is in the Eastern Countries, we should quickly find that Men might be cheerful with Sobriety, and witty without the Danger of losing their Senses; and that they might even double the Days of their natural Life, by converting it all into Enjoyment, exempt from several painful and acute Diseases, occasion'd very often by a pernicious Excess of inflaming Liquors, which render it rather a Burthen, than a Blessing to us."

The worthy Chaplain had, it seems, unbounded faith in tea, and we can only hope that the obvious inference that the people in the times of William III, spent half their day, afflicted by disease very often occasioned by indulgence in alcohol is somewhat exaggerated.

The Essay opens by stating that tea has for many years been highly approved in China and Japan, and that Europeans by their "frequent Navigations" have recently become better acquainted with its "Vertues," and have encouraged the importation of it. "And since the Drinking of it has of late obtain'd here so universally, as to be affected both by the Scholar and the Tradesman, to become both a private Regale at Court, and to be made use of in places of publick Entertainment which has greatly rais'd the character, and gain'd it a singular Repute; it might not be amiss therefore to draw up a short Account of its Nature and Qualities to satisfy such as are its curious Admirers with the Knowledge of its Use." After a description of the tree and comments on its hardness which enables it to thrive in climates, "the sharpness of whose Air might seem pernicious

if not fatal to its tender Leaf," the writer suggests that it might be grown here. "And might it, therefore, be convenient to have it brought hither, there is nothing in the Nature either of our Ground or Air that seem to contradict its Increase among us; Especially if sufficient Care were taken for the safe and cautious Transportation of the Seeds or Branches, and in their Growth they were expos'd, with the best Advantage to the Sun. Though the Art here used for raising of it has not yet answer'd Expectation. But whether this proceeds from the Envy of the Chinese, who are said to boil the Seed, lest it should be planted anywhere else; or from the Age of it, or untimely Collection of it, or the immoderate Heat of the Sun, and variety of Weathers in a long Voyage, it's uncertain."

Here is apparently an industry ignored by the agriculturists of this country. Imagine the production of nearly three hundred million pounds of tea for home use only, to say nothing of the export trade that might ensue. Possibly we should lack fresh milk to drink with it, but it may be that part of the learned Prelate's scheme was to start the dairying industry in the countries of indigenous tea.

The author states that while there are many sorts of tea in China, that which is brought into Europe is known only by three distinct names. "The first Sort is *Bohe*, or as the Chinese have it, *Voni*, which is a little Leaf inclining to black, and generally tinges the water brown, or of a reddish colour. Those in China that are sick, or are very careful of preserving their Health, if they are weak, confine themselves only to this kind of Tea, to which they are willing to ascribe a peculiar Virtue both for healing and preventing a Disease; and extol it as a mighty Friend to Nature when it is grown faint and languishing. The Taste of it, when it is very true and genuine, is delicious and pleasant, and the weakest Stomach is able to bear it. This kind of Tea therefore is, both in Colour and Nature different from the other two, and very useful to such as are *wasting* and *consumptive*, and excels the others in its healing balsamick Quality, and particularly in improving by *Length of Time*, which is very pernicious to the rest, for it generally grows better the longer it is kept.

"The second Sort is *Singlo* or *Sounlo* with the Chinese; of which there are several kinds, according to the place of Growth the manner of preparing it, and the Nature of the Tea. But that which is imported hither is of two sorts, both equally good. One of them is a *narrow and long leaf*. The other *Smaller* and of *bleuish green Colour*, which tastes very crisp when it is chew'd and afterwards looks green upon the Hand, and infuses a pale greenness into the Water. The Flavor of it is fresh and fine, lively and pleasant. 'Tis strong, and will endure the Change of Water three or four times. This Tea is brought over in round Totaneg Camisters pasted over with Paper, and inclos'd in a wooden Tub, containing the quantity of half a *Pecul*. And that you may more plainly discern whether all of it be new or no, these two things may be observ'd *First*, Examine the Leaves to see whether all or most of them are green; if not, but that some of them are turn'd brown, or look *decay'd* then may you guess that the Tea is not the finest, but is growing old, and will impair in Virtue daily. *Secondly*, Let the Liquor, into which the Tea has been infus'd stand in a Cup for the space of a whole Night; if after this you perceive that it still continues green, the Goodness of it seems unquestionable; but as it abates of its Perfection, and wants something of its Excellence and Strength. For the *fragrant Smell*, the *green Colour* and the *bitterish sweet Taste*, are the distinguishing Characters of the Goodness of this kind of Tea.

"The third sort is *Bing or Imperial Tea* according to the Epithet given it by the *English*, and by the *Dutch, Keisar*. This is a large loose Leaf, and therefore takes up more Room, proportionable to the weight of it, than any other *Tea*, because it is more open and spongy. The finest Sort of it looks both green to the Eye, and is crisp in the Mouth, and the Smell of it is very pleasant, which enhances the Price of it here in *England*; and 'tis highly esteem'd likewise in *China*, being sold there at three times the Price of the other two. But it generally is of divers Colours, as yellow, green, &c., and is reputed weak, spending itself quickly in the Infusion, and only tinctures the Waters with any Spirit twice, because it is not putting weight for weight with other *Tea*. This likewise, as the others, is Imported in large thick Totaneg Canisters, included in wooden Tubs, or in Baskets made of mall *Bamboo Canes*.

After this comes a warning against the cupidity of the Chinese, who are, it is stated, "So mightily intent upon their *Gain*, that they falsify every thing they sell, if 'tis capable of *Sophistication*." Like Bret Harte the author seems to have become acquainted with some of the black sheep, for he goes on to say that "such is the peculiar Talent of the *Chinese* in the Management of this Art, that the Discovery of them in one Trick, is only the quickening their Invention of another."—*The Produce Markets Review*.

(To be continued.)

COFFEE.

A rather sensational report from Santos that the drought has had a serious effect caused a sharp advance for a short time, until it was realised that only the very earliest crops could be affected, for the general flowering is not until September and October. The next day it was cabled that rain had fallen, and the result has been a decline of about 6d. per cwt. At this season there are nearly always these conflicting rumours, but they are so often contradicted directly afterwards that very little confidence is placed in them. The trade demand has been fairly good, both the Continent and America having bought largely at prices considerably below those of a year ago. The Brazilian receipts have been heavy, and consequently the Santos stock has rather accumulated, but not to any serious extent, considering the present facilities for financing the Coffee which did not exist a few years ago. Columbian is the principal kind that has been offered here, and it has sold very freely at a further advance of 1s. to 2s. per cwt. Reports speak of a very large crop, but this kind is in such demand that, with a shortage in some other growths, there will be little difficulty in disposing of it.

LONDON COFFEE RETURNS.

	*Home Consumption.		Export.		Stock.	
	1913.	1912.	1913.	1912.	1913.	1912.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
For week ended						
August 16th	...	256	274	600	191	15,935
For 33 weeks ended						
August 16th	...	9,908	10,957	12,183	10,191	—

*The Home amount contains a proportion for Export delivered by cart.—*The Produce Markets Review*.